Army pol. 1.

CONSIDERATIONS

UPON THE

DIFFERENT MODES

OF FINDING

Recruits for the Army.

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DIFFERENT MODES

OF FINDING

Recruits for the Army.

FROM the vaſt and unuſual demand for the Manufactures of England to Foreign Countries, and conſequently from the full employment of the Manufacturers at home, there has been found much difficulty of late in procuring Private Men for the Army.

The queſtion has been agitated in Parliament, whether the new Levies ſhould be made by additional Companies to the old Regiments, or by new Corps to be commanded by men of family and eſtate,

who have offered to raiſe them at their own riſk: *I ſay at their own riſk*; becauſe they have agreed that the Commiſſions ſhall follow, not precede, the finding the Recruits.

The queſtion between the merits of thoſe two modes of ſupplying the Army has been conſidered in many *general* lights, but perhaps not in the *particular* lights that are ſtrictly applicable to the ſtate of *this country* at *this time*.

The intention of the Writer of theſe Thoughts is to ſhew, firſt, the advantages of the laſt over the firſt of theſe modes, *in the preſent ſtate of things*. And ſecondly, to anſwer the objections which may be made to his opinions. Every private man has a right to deliver his opinions in public upon public meaſures. If he has no other channel for delivering them than an anonymous pamphlet, without taking more trouble than he chuſes to take, the ideas of a man who

means

means well may be diſtinguiſhed even there, by his not abuſing the King's Servants, whom he only wiſhes to convince, and who, he believes in his conſcience, are open to conviction, when truth, inſtead of abuſe, is preſented to them.

REASON FIRST. All, or almoſt all, of the old Regiments of Infantry are now, or will be ſoon, in America, Africa, or Aſia; that is to ſay, at three thouſand, at four thouſand, or at eight thouſand miles diſtance from England. But the common people of Britain and Ireland, who are beyond all nations attached to their own country, will be mighty ſhy of enliſting, when, in anſwer to the very firſt queſtion which they put, to wit, Where the Regiment is? they ſhall be told that they muſt ſail many thouſand miles before they can join it, and know that when they do ſo, they muſt be expoſed to climates, of which their ideas increaſe in horror in proportion to the diſtance of

place. New Corps do not carry along with them the ſame terrors of imagination. Becauſe the Corps themſelves are ſeen in Great Britain or Ireland. There is no certainty that they will ever be obliged to leave Great Britain or Ireland. Or if there was, the Recruits are kept in an happy ignorance of the intentions of their betters in that reſpect.

Reason Second. The Officers of additional Companies have no incitement to be active in the recruiting ſervice, becauſe their Commiſſions are independent of their finding the men. But the Officers intended for new Corps have the moſt preſſing incitement to be active in raiſing Recruits, becauſe the Commiſſions are made dependent upon their raiſing them.

Reason Third. The only men who will aſk the Command of the new Corps, or at leaſt who will get them, will be men

men of great eſtates and family, or at leaſt of great popularity; becauſe theſe are the only men who can raiſe new Corps. And the Commandants again will, for their own ſakes, chuſe the Officers under them, from ſuch Officers of the army as are of the beſt eſtates and families, or are themſelves the moſt popular, becauſe theſe only can find recruits. But is it credible that a Peaſant will ſo readily enliſt with a Serjeant or Drummer whoſe face he never ſaw before, as with the brother or ſon of his landlord under whom he has all his life lived? There is a jovialty and good fellowſhip in war as in friendſhip. General Fraſer in the laſt war raiſed a regiment of fifteen hundred men in two months, becauſe the men were all Highlanders. The Earl of Sutherland raiſed his fifteen hundred in two weeks, becauſe they were almoſt all Sutherlands. All the Drummers, and Serjeants, and Pipers of the Army could not in three years have raiſed

theſe

theſe three thouſand men, if they had been intended for thirty additional Companies to thirty different Regiments. Ireland and Scotland prove the truth of my poſitions at this inſtant. The Iriſh Roman Catholic commonalty are eager to be employed in the preſent war, provided they go in Corps of Roman Catholics, even although they know that by law they muſt be commanded by Proteſtant Officers. The Scotch Highlanders are eager to engage in the preſent war, to be commanded by any officers the King ſhall ſend to them, provided they go in Bands of their Countrymen. But eager and warlike as the people of both theſe Countries are, the report of every recruiting Serjeant will ſhew how few of either Country can be prevailed on to enliſt in old Regiments, where they are ſtrangers to all, and all are ſtrangers to them.

REASON FOURTH. Additional Corps are cheaper to the nation either while they ſtand, or when they are reduced, than additional Companies. Fortunately the truth or falſehood of this argument depends upon figures, and figures are ſubject to no errors.

State

State of the Expence of both Bodies upon Reduction;
And firſt, *State of the Expence of additional Companies upon Reduction.*

The Strength of additional Companies according to the preſent Plan of the Army.

	Lt. Col.	Majors.	Capts.	Lieuts.	Enſigns.	Privates.
Additional Companies have - - - -			1	1	1	60
Sixteen additional Companies ſo raiſed - - -			16	16	16	960

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
The Half Pay of 16 Captains is, at 91 *l.* 5 *s.* each, per Annum, - -	1460	0	0
The Half Pay of 16 Lieutenants (at 4 *s.* 8 *d.* per day) 42 *l.* 11 *s.* 8 *d.* Half Pay, per Annum, - - - - - - - -	681	6	8
The Half Pay of 16 Enſigns (at 3 *s.* 4 *d.* per day) is 33 *l.* 9 *s.* 2 *d.* each, Half Pay, per Annum, - - - - - - - -	535	6	8
Total Half Pay - -	£ 2676	13	4

The Reduction of 960 Men raiſed on the above Principles will load the Nation with the above Half Pay.

2dly, *State of the Expence of Additional Corps upon Reduction.*

Half Pay of a Corps consisting of	Lt. Col. 1	Majors. 2	Capts. 7	Lieuts. 20	Ensigns. 10	Privates. 1000

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
Lieutenant Colonel's Half Pay	155	2	6
Half Pay of 2 Majors, at 136 *l.* 17 *s.* 6 *d.* per Annum each, is	273	15	0
The Half Pay of 7 Captains, at 91 *l.* 5 *s.* per Annum each, is	638	15	0
The Half Pay of 20 Lieutenants, at 42 *l.* 11 *s.* 8 *d.* per Annum each, is	851	13	4
The Half Pay of 10 Ensigns, at 33 *l.* 9 *s.* 2 *d.* per Annum each, is	334	11	8
Total Half Pay	£ 2253	17	6

But the Half Pay of 960 Men in additional Companies, according to the present Plan of the army we found to be	2676	13	4
Deduct therefrom the Sum of	2253	17	6
And there will remain saved to the Nation by the additional Corps a Balance of	£ 422	15	10

It may perhaps be objected to the above State of Accounts, that in additional Companies, one half of the Captains were to have been taken from Half Pay, in order to relieve the Nation of part of the Half Pay liſt. The anſwer is ſimple; that the ſame rule might have been made in additional Corps, and then the ſaving would have been exactly the ſame.

From the above State of Accounts it appears, that in the ſame bodies of men raiſed by additional Corps or additional Companies, there is a ſaving to the nation upon their *Reduction*, to the advantage of the former mode, of 422*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* it is therefore needleſs to ſtate the ſaving upon the ſame bodies when *ſtanding*. It muſt be exactly double, to wit, 845*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* becauſe Whole Pay is the double of Half Pay. Beſides, there is a ſaving to the nation in the levy money. Additional Companies are allowed

five

five guineas a man; additional Corps are allowed only three.

FIFTH REASON. Additional Corps are more for the intereſt of the army, than additional Companies. Every Officer taken from an old Regiment and put into a new Corps gains a ſtep; the whole Officers of the Regiment which he leaves gain each a ſtep by his removal, until in the end the Enſigncies are left vacant, to be beſtowed for the intereſt of the army upon the ſons of old gallant Officers. It is happy when an argument beginning with conſiderations of intereſt terminates in one of humanity, in the eyes of a Prince who is the ſoldier's friend, of a nation grateful to thoſe who defend it, and of a Miniſter of War who feels for the old Officer when a father, becauſe he remembers with gratitude the ſervices of his youth.

REASON SIXTH. Could the object be univerſally attained, an Engliſh army

would be more formidable to its enemies, if it was made to conſiſt always of Regiments connected with each other by ſome diſtinct common bond of union; becauſe Regiment would then vie with Regiment in action to preſerve its diſtinction. The Athenian Bands, and Roman Legions in the times of the Republic, were drawn from different tribes of the city, and kept in ſeparate diviſions of the Band or Legion, according to their ſeparate Tribes. Cromwell formed his Regiments of different ſectaries of Religion, kept ſeparate from each other. The French compoſe theirs of the inhabitants of different provinces kept in ſeparate Regiments. Armies of Highlanders were only bands of different families obedient to one head. King William carried the Battle of the Boyne, by making the Troops of ſix different Nations vie with each other which ſhould be the firſt to extend, or the laſt to ſully, the glories of their Countrymen. When Francis the Firſt was taken at the Battle

of

of Pavia, there were found of his Scotch guard of an hundred men above ninety lying on the ground around him, from that pride which is the natural conſequence of connexion and diſtinction. Men muſt be loſt to the knowledge of hiſtory and of human nature, who do not ſee the advantages which the Rulers of Nations may make of ſuch principles in the human mind. The bonds of imagination are ſtronger than fetters of iron. The rebellious Americans ſee them well. They raiſe their Regiments by giving them to Commandants who have the nomination of their own Officers, who again find their own men. And this union of Father and Son, of Brother with Brother, of Friend with Friend in the ſame band, and the emulation in valour which from thence ariſes in man with man, and in band with band, is perhaps one of the moſt formidable circumſtances, though little attended to, in the preſent conteſt with America.

REASON SEVENTH. The preſent is a ſingular War; it is a War of Engliſh Subjects againſt Engliſh Subjects; and that War is to be conducted at three thouſand miles diſtance from the native country; where, conſequently, length of time and diſtance of place will be apt to weaken and obliterate the tie between the Soldier and his Country. Men inveigled into Recruits by the common arts of recruiting Serjeants, will be bad Soldiers for ſuch a War. One of the moſt diſmal conſequences of Civil War is, that people can plead principle in excuſe for defection from their duty, and find ſalvos for their honour under pretence of their virtue. No perſon, not even the meaneſt in ſtation, ſhould be received into the Army in the preſent War, unleſs he follows his Officer from affection to him, and from principle to his Country. Charles the Firſt received every careleſs, idle, diſſolute fellow into his Troops. But Cromwell judged wiſer; for in a

Civil War he took none but thoſe over whoſe minds he had a hold. The Roman Leaders in their Civil Wars were at as much pains to gain the minds as to command the bodies of their ſoldiers. What elſe could have made Cæſar's Cohorts, when taken priſoners, put themſelves to death by mutual wounds, when they found that their lives could no longer be of uſe to their General? What elſe made Otho's Soldiers ſtab themſelves around his funeral pile, when they put each other in remembrance that their General had died to ſave them? Theſe matters deſerve very ſerious reflection, when we are engaged in a war with a people who, though they act from a miſguided and bad principle, yet act from principle. A ſingle Mutiny in an Engliſh Army in America might riſk the Engliſh Empire there. The fate of the greateſt and nobleſt, becauſe the freeſt Empire that God ever formed, is perhaps involved in the queſtion agitated in this Paper.—The example of the King

of

Pruſſia diſproves not the opinions which I advance. He has indeed, by the fear of the Scourge, made preſt men of his own country, and the deſerters of all countries, fight in his cauſe againſt all nations; but he has not yet tried Pruſſians againſt Pruſſians.

Reason Last. The Bounty Money has been raiſed, the Standard of the Recruits has been diminiſhed, yet neither circumſtance has availed. No Recruits can be found for additional Companies. It is then a matter not of choice but of neceſſity to try the other expedient of additional Corps. England, Scotland, and Ireland, are full of people, martial, and tied to each other by peculiar as well as by common bonds. Men of eſtates, of family, and virtue, command the common people of England by the nobleſt of all powers, the powers of popularity. The commons among the Highlanders of Scotland are united to each other, and to their chieftains, by the

the ties of a common relation; and the Roman Catholic common people of Ireland, are rivetted to each other by the ties of a common religion. All, all are attached to England, to the King of England, and to the Conſtitution of England, againſt a Rebellion againſt all three. Armies are at hand, many more than are needed, if their ſervice is only called for, in the only way that they can ſerve their Country with effect. The ſucceſs of General Fraſer's recruiting will in a ſhort time convince the Public, that the Writer of this paper is excuſable for laying down his opinions with a degree of authority, which, perhaps, does not become a private perſon.

Objections to additional Corps.

Objection 1ſt. New Corps are worſe troops than New Companies added to old Corps.

Anſwer. The fallacy of this argument ariſes from ſuppoſing New Corps

to conſiſt of New Men commanded by New Officers. But if care is taken that moſt of the Officers ſhall be Veterans, the newer the men are, juſt ſo much the better: the fire of youth, the fire of emulation, the viſions of preferment, even the ſpirits ariſing from novelty, the inexperience of danger, all impel raw ſoldiers to exertions which veteran ſoldiers will ſhun if they can. The firſt campaign of King William's army in Ireland was unſucceſsful, becauſe he was obliged to appoint the new Officers of new Regiments from amongſt the ſons and brothers of his ſubjects of condition, whom he wiſhed, by that means, to attach to his cauſe, and who had never been in the Army before: but theſe new Officers having moſtly died from habits of life to which they had been unaccuſtomed, and from their own exceſſes, he appointed veteran Officers in their places, and then drove King James, in the ſecond campaign, with eaſe before him, into France. The active yet ſteady

valour

valour of Elliot's Dragoons, and of the Highland Regiments, in the late war, prove againſt all the pedantry of all army pedants, that no Armies in the world can ſtand againſt the new levies of Britain, impelled by the youth and high ſpirits of the private Men, and reſtrained by the age of the veteran Officers.—Beſides, England is full of Militia Men, that is of Soldiers who will be as fit for war in a month as in a year; and who will naturally, from the love of ſociety and old fellowſhips, run in cluſters, to form new Corps indeed, but compoſed of men who know all the manœuvres of war as well as old Soldiers.

Objection 2d. New Corps injure the intereſts of the old Army by giving rank to the Officers of the new Corps.

Anſwer 1ſt. Admitting the fact to be ſo, it does not from thence follow, that new Corps ought not to be raiſed. Unhappy is that ſtate where the intereſt

of any body of men is put in competition with that of the ſtate itſelf. Cæſar ſet up the intereſt of his Army againſt that of imperial Rome; Cromwell ſet up the intereſt of his Army againſt that of imperial England; and both laid the nobleſt conſtitutions that Heaven ever formed in the duſt. If the fact be, that an Engliſh Army is *at this time* to be raiſed by new Corps, or not to be got at all, and conſequently that the ſalvation of the empire depends upon that Mode of Recruiting, it is believed that the Officers of the old Army will not thank thoſe, who make uſe of an argument, which weighs their *particular* intereſt, in a balance, againſt the *general* intereſt of their country.

Anſwer 2d. The fact is not ſo. The Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the new Corps, may indeed get more than one ſtep in reward of his public and private ſpirit, and is well entitled to it. But a regulation might be made, which it is believed was intended, that none of the other Officers in the new Corps ſhould

ſhould get more than one ſtep; in which caſe the rank of the Army would have been preſerved undiſturbed.

Objection 3d. It will provoke the Officers at Boſton to hear, that Officers at home are getting rank for mere recruiting, when they are getting none for expoſing themſelves to death every day.

Anſwer. They ſhould be equally provoked to hear that promotions are going on in additional Companies, as in additional Corps. But indeed they are too generous to complain of what cannot be helped. They know that the laurels they have gained cannot be kept, and the manes of their friends cannot be revenged, without the aſſiſtance of more troops from home; and that more troops are not to be got by additional Companies, but by additional Corps alone. They know that in the chance of war, ſome Officers muſt be employed

employed in recruiting, while others are employed in fighting; that Recruits are as neceſſary to Armies as Arms; and that the ſame fate which threw them upon the one ſervice, might have thrown them upon the other. Perhaps, indeed, they might in return for a gallantry unparalleled in hiſtory, expect, from the gratitude of their country, brevets of rank to preſerve their ſuperiority over the Officers of the new Corps, and if their country ſhould fulfil thoſe expectations, it would do no more than it ought to do.

No intereſt can be hurt by additional Corps except that of the Colonels of the old Regiments, who, if additional Corps took place, and not additional Companies, would loſe the clothing and other perquiſites of thoſe Companies; and of the Miniſter for the war department, who, in that caſe, would loſe the nomination of the Officers to the additional Companies. It is not unuſual in this age, to give a ſtab under pretence of a

compliment. I hope I ſhall be ſuſpected of no ſuch intention, when I ſay, that I put too much confidence in the Honour of thoſe Colonels, and in the Virtue of that Miniſter, to believe that ſuch paltry private views could have any influence upon their public conduct.

Laſt Objection. The new Recruits for additional Companies can be raiſed by a new Preſs Act, or by preſſing on the old vagabond laws.—God forbid that I ſhould anſwer an objection which, if liſtened to, would diſcloſe this fatal ſecret to America, that Britain cannot get her ſons to fight in her cauſe *but by force.*

It is ſelf-evident to any who has reflection or foreſight, knowledge in the hiſtory of paſt events, or can gueſs at future ones by tracing the connection between Cauſes and Effects, that, *ſince a regular Land War has been choſen*, the Troops

Troops intended for the American War are not adequate to the extent of it. Neither the Miniſter or Miniſters are to blame. An unhappy prejudice againſt additional Corps has ſeized, like the Influenza that lately ran through London, the public and individuals alike. It is the intention of this Paper to attempt to remove *that prejudice*. Happily it is not yet too late to correct the error. Ireland is full of a Roman Catholic Commonalty, brave as their countrymen, who, employed againſt that country in whoſe ſervice they ſhould have been employed, turned the Fate of the Battle of Fountenoy againſt England; Scotland, of Highlanders willing again and again to waſh away the crimes of their anceſtors with their blood; and England, of generous Commons, whoſe minds are as high as thoſe of the Princes of other countries; all ready, in ſeparate but connected bands of friends, to vie with each other who ſhall moſt ſhew their valour

in

in the cauſe of England, while the War laſts, and their Clemency to America when it ends.

The Author of theſe Thoughts never knew a Pamphlet have any *conſiderable Effect* in England but one, "Mr. Mau-"duit's Conſiderations on the German "War." He is not without hopes that a Pamphlet equally founded in Truth and good Intention, he is ſure equally void of factious and malicious views, and given to the Public in a far more perilous hour, may not paſs *altogether without Effect* upon the Public.

FINIS.